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San Manuel Makes \$500,000 Donation to Aid Darfur Relief

Donation Benefiting Poker Tournament to Raise Awareness for the Darfur Crisis in Africa hosted by World Series of Poker® Champion Annie Duke and Academy Award Nominee® Don Cheadle

San Manuel Indian Nation, (Highland, Calif.) –May 7, 2008- The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians announced today that it will pledge \$500,000 to the Not on Our Watch (NOOW) project during celebrity poker tournament on Thursday May 8 at San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino.

Professional Poker player Annie Duke and Academy Award nominee® Don Cheadle, will be onsite at San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino in Highland. They will be hosting a celebrity Poker tournament and exclusive VIP after party to raise awareness and funds for the Ante Up For Africa project with proceeds going to the NOOW.

(NOOW), which was founded by actors George Clooney, Don Cheadle, Matt Damon, and Brad Pitt, has embarked to focus global attention and resources towards putting an end to mass atrocities around the world. The group has adopted the crisis in Darfur, Africa, as its inaugural campaign. Drawing on the powerful voices of artists, activists and cultural leaders, (NOOW) generates lifesaving humanitarian assistance and protection for the vulnerable, marginalized and displaced.

“The opportunity for the tribe to become involved in this effort led us to reflect on our own history – the history of the California Indian people - and our survival,” said James Ramos, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians.

“This has motivated the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians to partner up with Not On Our Watch to help turn the tide against the atrocities that are occurring in Darfur. We hope this will motivate others to get involved as well.”

“The crisis in Darfur is an issue very close to my heart”, said the organizations co-founder, Don Cheadle. “San Manuel understands the severity of this crisis and is helping us use the popularity of Poker to spread the word.”

“We hope our efforts will help draw mass attention to this very important issue that affects us all, and inspire others to get involved.”

This star studded event, which will feature a number of prominent celebrities and poker professionals, will help raise public awareness for the Darfur conflict in Africa, with which Duke and Cheadle are very involved. The Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament, which will be held at 6:30 pm in the casino's Yuhaviatam room, is an invitation only event, limited to high-end players, poker professionals and celebrity poker enthusiasts.

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In lieu of a cash prize, the winner of the tournament will receive a celebrity autographed custom poker table, courtesy of the casino.

"Poker is a great way of raising awareness," Duke said. "We encourage anyone who wants to enjoy a very special evening with some of the biggest names in entertainment and gaming while helping to ease the suffering of millions of Darfur refugees to come out to San Manuel and support this wonderful cause."

After the tournament, the poker pros and celebrities will join other VIP's at an exclusive after party at the casino to celebrate the grand opening of their chic and trendy new steakhouse/lounge, "The Pines". The party will kick off with a "red carpet" press line, providing interview and photo opportunities with numerous celebrities. Once inside, VIP's will enjoy a night of great music, dancing and great food, as they sample an array of the tantalizing items from the restaurant's new menu. A silent auction held during the tournament, will allow attendees to bid on various autographed promotional items, with all donations going directly to (NOOW).

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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